

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE
1 OCTOBER 1978

Colby, Wm.
Common Cause

Ex-CIA director a political consultant Colby defends his Japanese ties

By John Rutherford
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Former CIA Director William E. Colby, who spent 30 years in American intelligence, now is using his expertise and contacts as an agent for Japanese industrial interests in the United States.

Colby, 58, was fired as CIA director in November 1975 by former President Ford. Since then, he has traveled the lecture circuit, written a book and started a Washington law practice.

In May, he registered with the Justice Department as a political consultant to the Political Public Relations Center, a Tokyo-based firm with clients in many areas of Japanese industry.

Colby is not the only former US official to represent foreign interests in this country. Former members of Congress, the Cabinet and other government agencies have registered with the Justice Department under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938.

Colby said in a recent interview he sees nothing wrong in drawing on his CIA background — including five years as chief of the agency's Far East Division — to advise the center on how Japanese industrial interests can best be represented in this country.

"When you retire out of government, you're a free citizen," he said. "I don't see any conflict of interest between the interests of CIA and the interests of the Japanese in having a better understanding here between our countries."

I frankly think it's terribly important that we get over these misunderstandings, as I think there's more in common between Japan and the United States — even Japanese industries and the United States — than there is that separates us."

Common Cause, however, said it is "grossly insensitive" of Colby and other former top officials to turn around and represent foreign interests.

"Suddenly they're on the other side of the table on matters that could conflict," the national citizens lobby said. "They obviously lack good sense and restraint."

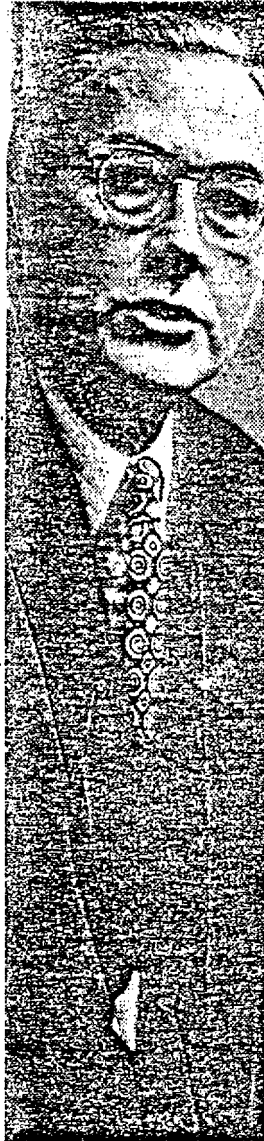
Common Cause said legislation is needed to correct this "clear gap in the law."

"In the meantime," it said, "the White House should ask officials to sign contracts pledging not to take on such representation when they leave government."

Colby said the distinction to be made is whether his work involves an unfair advantage.

"In other words, suppose instead of the Japanese — this firm retaining me like it did — suppose a foreign intelligence service retained me to try to get some good relationship with CIA. Well, I'd turn it down right away."

"But for me to give (the Japanese) advice on how they're received here in the general public opinion and the general political field, I don't think there's anything



COLBY

In a May 3 letter to Takayoshi Miyagawa, the center's president, Colby outlined his law firm's initial approach, which included "a review and analysis of several recent problems Japanese interests have faced here in the United States."

Colby cited as examples the controversies over Japanese steel exports and whaling activities and the trade imbalance between the two countries.

He also proposed an analysis of the success or failure of other foreign interests — such as the Greeks, South Africans and Koreans — in presenting their positions in this country.

Colby said the initial phase of his work would cost about \$10,000. Miyagawa replied six days later confirming the contract.

Other former high-ranking government officials now representing foreign interests in this country include J. William Fulbright, former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Charles E. Goodell, former Republican senator from New York; Clark M. Clifford, Secretary of State in 1968-69; and Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

Fulbright's law firm provides legal services to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Japanese embassy. Among other things, Goodell's law firm represents the French government in its efforts to secure landing rights in the United States for the supersonic Concorde jetliner.

Clifford's law firm provides legal services to the Algerian government and the Australian Meat Board, and Udall is an associate in a law firm that represents Foothills Pipe-Lines, Inc. of Alberta, Canada.

Lowell Thomas Jr., Alaska's lieutenant governor and son of the famous author and commentator, is registered with the Justice Department as a lecturer for the Australian Tourist Commission.